



HARFORD COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFF'S UNION

PO Box 881, Bel Air, Maryland 21014

www.hcdsu.org

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Senate Budget and Tax Committee
Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Senate Bill 139 State Police Retirement System and Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System –
Deferred Retirement Option Program – Alterations (SUPPORT)**

Dear Senator Guzzone and members of the Budget and Tax Committee,

The Harford County Deputy Sheriff's Union supports Senate Bill 139. We represent over 300 sworn deputies of the Harford County Sheriff's Office who serve each day to keep citizens safe in Harford County and Maryland.

Recruitment and retention continue to be a challenge for law enforcement agencies across Maryland jurisdictions. Although law enforcement candidates enter the profession for many reasons, the ability to attain a reliable pension benefit is certainly a primary consideration for candidates and current members of the LEOPS plan.

Senate Bill 139 improves the DROP program by increasing the years of eligibility to 32 years of creditable service and increases the period to participate to 7 years. This change is done in a fiscally responsible manner and does not have a significant fiscal impact.

Senate Bill 139 takes an initial step to keep the LEOPS pension benefit competitive as we consider additional steps to improve the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to share the SUPPORT of the Harford County Deputy's Union today and we ask for a FAVORABLE report on Senate Bill 139.

Sincerely,

Gerald Eaton Jr

Gerald Eaton

Harford County Deputy Sheriff's Union